



PRESS RELEASE

# Baker-Polito Administration Convenes 2018 Economic Development Summit in Worcester

More than 500 stakeholders met to discuss economic and growth priorities;  
2018 round for MassWorks Infrastructure Grants now open

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Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

Office of Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito

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**WORCESTER, MA** — Today, the Baker-Polito Administration hosted the 2018 Economic Development Summit at the DCU Center in Worcester, bringing together nearly 500 municipal leaders, legislators,

economic development professionals, and various stakeholders to share best practices and discuss emerging opportunities and programs that support growth.

“The Commonwealth is driven by the strength of our 351 cities and towns, and our administration continues to seek innovative ways to best support efforts that help generate economic opportunity and support thriving neighborhoods in every community,” **said Governor Charlie Baker.** “By providing the right tools and resources, our administration will ensure that our cities and towns have the support to continue to be the economic engine of the Commonwealth.”

“Our local leaders are supporting growth and economic opportunity in our cities and towns, and this summit provides a tremendous opportunity to hear directly from them and learn more about what is working best in different areas of the Commonwealth,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.** “We are also excited to announce applications for a new round of MassWorks grants, and look forward to partnering with local officials on another successful year of supporting local economic development projects.”

This is the second large-scale economic summit that the Baker-Polito Administration has convened, offering an opportunity for administration officials to discuss relevant legislative priorities, raise awareness for programs and tools available to communities, and solicit feedback on ways to support economic development across the state.

“I am proud to be part of this incredible team of dedicated economic development professionals working to provide our municipalities with a powerhouse toolbox of flexible, effective resources,” **said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash.** “We look forward to working with our partners in the legislature on our economic development legislation to build on this incredible platform.”

The 2018 Economic Development Summit invited municipal leaders to attend break-out sessions focusing on specific aspects of economic development strategy, including market-rate and affordable housing production, infrastructure, community-based innovation, workforce training, small business development, and key industry development.

Sessions featured speakers from the Executive Offices of Housing and Economic Development, Education, Labor and Workforce, and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The summit also featured experts from the state’s quasi-public agencies, including MassDevelopment, Mass Life Sciences Center, Massachusetts Housing Partnership and MassTech Collaborative and spotlighted municipal voices from the Cities of Beverly, Malden, Westfield, Lowell, and Hampden County.

At the summit, Governor Baker also announced the official opening of the 2018 application round for the MassWorks Infrastructure Grants program.

[The MassWorks Infrastructure Program](#) provides a one-stop shop for municipalities and other eligible public entities seeking public infrastructure funding to support housing production, economic development, and job creation. In 2017, the Baker-Polito Administration awarded nearly \$85 million to 46 projects across the Commonwealth. More information on the application process can be [found here](#).

[In March, Governor Baker filed new economic development legislation](#), *An Act Enhancing Opportunities for All*. This new legislation provides more than \$610 million in capital authorizations, including \$300 million in capital reauthorization for the successful MassWorks infrastructure program, to expand on critical programming created in the administration's 2016 Economic Development Legislation.

Since 2015, and including this year's awards, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded over \$274 million in MassWorks funding to 134 projects in 106 communities throughout the Commonwealth, spurring the development of over 2 million square feet of commercial and retail space, over 7,000 immediate housing units, at least 7,000 square feet of new public space, 1,200 new hotel rooms, and commercial/retail space.

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